

The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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- Heard Island Newsletter
- Christmas Party
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How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

From the President

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

And so we close the year 2015 amid declining Cycle 24. Since re-joining the amateur radio community barely 8 years ago I've listened to the prognosticators begin with glowing predictions for the cycle, then tempered calls for less than stellar conditions, mention of a double peak, and finally acceptance that this one was not what we wished it to be. It seems that all we can do now is make the best of what the ionosphere gives us - and maybe build more low-band antennas.

Join us next Tuesday. In lieu of our regular meeting we'll gather at Terra Nova's (near Gigaparts) at 6:00 pm for a Holiday meal and fellowship with members and their spouses.

I want to thank the other officers and directors for their faithful and helpful service to the club. It's a continuing pleasure to work with a team who shares the workload and helps guide our club. This month your returning officers, directors, and members welcome Jim Spikes N4KH as our newly elected Vice-President.

The year flew by for yours truly. Seems like only yesterday we were warming our tubes during Super Bowl weekend to work K1N. Other DXpeditions came and went through the

springtime and before we knew it summer antenna season was upon us. Didn't get the low band antenna up in the front yard as planned but heard several club members made aluminum extensions to their stations.

Last month I mentioned using the HARC CW training class as the driver to re-invent myself into a bi-lingual ham. A few Sunday's ago an opportunity came along too tasty to pass up. Monk Apollo SV2ASP/A was running stations on 40m CW and he was split, (heard from old-timers that he's frequently simplex).

He was sending at a speed that I could almost copy so I called on a frequency where he'd just concluded a Q - a second receiver & bandscope is incredibly helpful. I copied N 4 B and then lost it. I sent my exchange anyways and judging from the timing when he started re-transmitting, I think I'm in his log. Sent my first international QSL card.

I think you can guess what I want for Christmas.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year,

Mark N4BCD

President, North Alabama DX Club

November Meeting Minutes

Notes by Kelley Vann Johns, W4VPZ Secretary/Treasurer

NADXC Meeting Minutes 10 NOV 2015

24 members and 2 guests in attendance

Announcements:

Repeater news from Ron W4VM—a new controller is active on his desk with a PL of 62 Hz; he's now looking for coordinating time with a help to replace the tower feedline.

Chuck N4NM on the HARC CW class: There are 23 or 24 students, and they are using the CWOPS program for instruction.

Today's digital edition of the December QST was released.

Steve AG4W's lucky day: He received plaques from the Yankee Clipper Contest Group and for the ARRL 2500 DXCC Challenge both on the same day.

Warren KJ4RAQ is back from a 4000+ mile trip to Canada and back again.

The DXpedition to Willis Island activates on Saturday.

MD Smith WA4DXP had a show and tell of a 40m QRP rig with paddles in an Altoids tin.

Chuck N4NM pointed out an article in the current (Nov/Dec 2015) National Contest Journal. It is a profile of George Wagner, K5KG and mentions the North Alabama DX Club.

DX Worked:

Kevin Hibbs KG4TEI: RT9, 5B

Al Watson W4ABW: V73D, 4L8A, 4L1MA, TT8AMO, YF1AR/8, TR8CA, BG4AUE, 9M6XRO, ZA1G, 3W3MD

Rob Suggs KB5EZ: V73D, 3B8, FJ, TO2, 5W4 = 5 ATNOs

Chuck Lewis N4NM: no DX, but rec'd cards from Uzbekistan (2013) and Willis (2000)

Treasurer's Report:

Bank balance \$4283.89

Donations have been made to DXpeditions:

- Willis Island (VK9WA) \$125
- Palmyra Island (K5P) \$125
- Heard Island (VK0EK) \$200

Membership Applications:

None

New Business:

A budget point was raised concerning support of the Spectrum Defense Fund. Discussion leaned toward supporting the fund so it will be figured into the 2016 club budget.

North Alabama DX Club DX'er of the Year/Distinguished Member of the Year balloting took place.

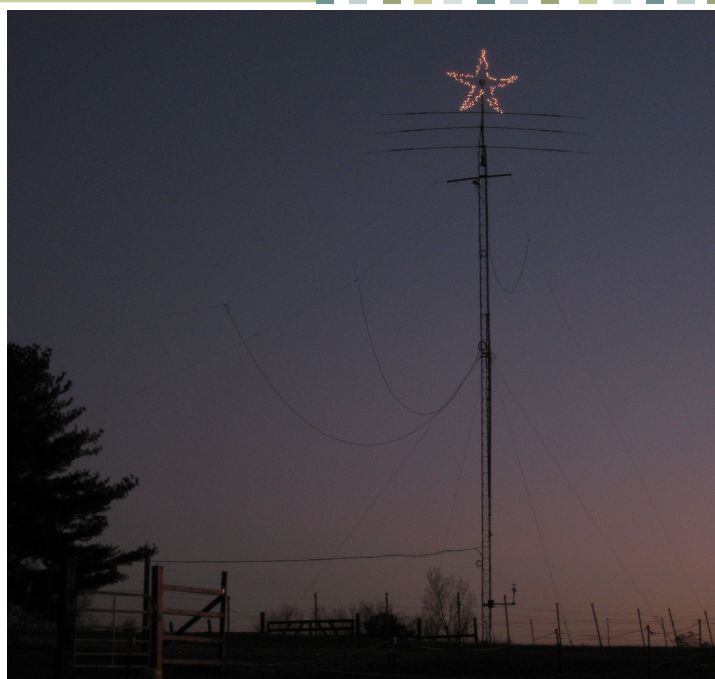
Program:

Rob N4WGY presented his design and construction of packing 5 bands into a hexbeam antenna.

Tennessee Christmas Star

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

Good WX the week of Thanksgiving allowed construction of this lighted Christmas Star. The center pentagon was constructed from 12" square by 3" thick barn poplar (lightweight but strong), the arms are 3/8" x 4' hardwood dowels for an approximate 8' span. A warped 1"x2" is screwed to the pentagon and jams down into the mast pipe. Lights are 200 miniature series incandescents. The center is at 68' AGL and can be seen for miles. A fold-over tower made for a quick install. The hardest part – measuring & cutting out a proper pentagon from a four sided board.



Heard Island Newsletter

As thanks for our contribution to the Heard Island 2016 VKOEK DXpedition, organizers Cordell Expeditions have sent us a copy of their current newsletter. It can be distributed to NADXC members, but not posted on our web site. I'll be happy to email the PDF to you—just send me an email.

73,

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

NADXC Christmas Party

This Tuesday's meeting is the annual NADXC Christmas Party, at Terra Nova beginning at 6:00 pm. Arrangements will be similar to last year. The program will be provided by you—fellowship among NADXC members.

The LongPath Staff

Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Kelley Vann Johns, W4VPZ, Minutes

Mark Brown, N4BCD, From the President

December Birthday Robert Noyce

Having no particular relationship to amateur radio, our hobby and indeed our world would be very different without the change to the semiconductor industry kicked off, independently, by Robert Noyce at Fairchild Semiconductor and Jack Kilby at Texas Instruments, co-inventors of the integrated circuit. Can you imagine any of today's mid-range — not to mention top-of-the-line — transceivers manufactured with discrete transistors?

Robert Noyce was born in Burlington, IA on December 12, 1927. Graduating from Grinnell College with math and physics degrees, he enrolled in the graduate physics curriculum at MIT and graduated with a Ph. D. in 1953. Three years after graduation he went to work for transistor co-inventor William Shockley at Shockley Semiconductor in Mountain View, CA, and stayed there only about a year, leaving with others to form Fairchild Semiconductor as a division of Fairchild Camera and Instrument.

Arguments about whether Kilby or Noyce or both or neither deserve credit for inventing the integrated circuit continue to this day, but by 1960 both Fairchild Semiconductor and Texas Instruments had patents related to integrated circuit basics and manufacturing specifics. It is important to note that Kilby received the 2000 Nobel Prize in Physics for the invention of the integrated circuit, but Kilby himself acknowledged Noyce's role. After more than ten years at Fairchild, Noyce and Gordon Moore left to found Intel. There is a perhaps apocryphal tale about musings between these two on the name of the company. "Shockley was named after Shockley; Fairchild was named after Fairchild; how about calling it Moore-Noyce?" "More Noise—are you kidding? We've got too much as it is!"



Intel kingpins left-to-right: Andy Grove, Robert Noyce, and Gordon Moore

Noyce's is credited with establishing an informal and accessible management style adopted by many of the denizens of what is now called Silicon Valley, recognition of which earned him the moniker "Mayor of Silicon Valley".

Robert Noyce died in 1990 when Intel was using an 800 nanometer feature size process for its chips. Today's Intel chips are 14 nanometer feature size on 300 mm wafers. When Noyce and Kilby started their integrated circuit work, feature size was big enough to see with the naked eye.

NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Mark Brown, N4BCD
Vice President	Jim Spikes, N4KH
Secretary/	Kelley Vann-Johns W4VPZ
Treasurer	
At-large	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI
directors	Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

DX Contests for December

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

ARRL 160 Meter Contest, (CW), 160 meters only

Dec. 4, 2200Z to Dec. 6, 1600Z

Exchange: RST plus Section. DX: RST

See page 69, Dec. QST and www.arrl.org/160-meter

Ten-Meter RTTY Contest, (DIG), 10 meters only

Dec. 6, 0000Z to 2359Z

Exchange: RST + State/Province; DX: RST + Ser. #

See page 69, Dec. QST and <http://www.rttycontesting.com/ten-meter-rtty-contest/rules/>

ARRL Ten Meter Contest, (SSB & CW), 10 meters only

Dec. 12, 0000Z to Dec. 13, 2359Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus State/Province; DX: RST + Ser. #

See page 69, Dec. QST and www.arrl.org/contests

Russian 160 Meter Contest (CW/SSB) 160 meters

Dec. 18, 2000Z to 2400Z

Exchange: RS(T)+ Serial #; Russian Stns: RST + Oblast

See page 69, Dec. QST and www.grz.ru/contest/detail/90.html

Croatian CW Contest, (CW), 160 – 10 meters

Dec. 19, 1400Z to Dec. 20 1400Z

Exchange: RST + SER. #

See page 69, Dec. QST and www.9acw.org/index.php/rules/english

OK DX RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80 – 10 meters

Dec 19, 0000Z to Dec. 21, 2400Z

Exchange: RST plus CQ Zone

See page 69, Dec. QST and www.crk.cz

RAC Winter Contest (CW & PHONE), 160-2 meters

Dec 19, 0000Z to 2400Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial No.; VEs send RS(T) plus Province

See page 69, Dec. QST and www.rac.ca/?s=winter+contest

Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge, (CW), 160 meters

Dec. 26, 1500Z to Dec. 27, 1500Z

Exchange: 4 Char. Grid square

See page 69, Dec. QST and www.kkn/stew

DARC Christmas Contest, (CW & SSB), 75/80 & 40 meters

Dec. 26, 0830Z to 1100Z

Exchange: RS(T) [+DOK or special code for DL]

See page 69, Dec. QST or www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/xmas/en

Worldwide Iron Ham contest (CW, SSB, & DIG), 80-10 meters

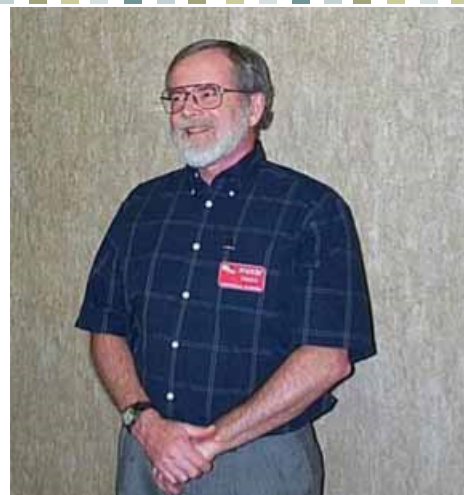
Dec. 26, 1200Z to Dec. 27, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus CQ Zone

See: page 69, Dec. QST and www.ironham.com.br/?page_id=22

RAEM Contest (CW), 80-10 meters

Dec. 27, 0000Z to 1200Z



Exchange: Serial # plus Lat/Long, (e.g., 57N 85E)

See page 69, Dec. QST and www.srr.ru/contest/raem

OTHERS

SARL Digital contest,

1300Z – 1600Z Dec. 6

ARRL RTTY Roundup,

1800Z, Jan 3 to 2400Z, Jan 4

EUCW 160m Contest,

2000Z- 2300Z, Jan 3; and 0400Z to 0700Z, Jan 4

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware.

See also: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal>

Chuck, N4NM